

the polemic

Volume II, Number III

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

Coast Guard sinks HRC

Tragedy struck the Hudson River Celebration, when the coast guard cutter protecting the anything-that-floats boat race ran amok in the river, sinking several of the entrants.

The event started peacefully; however, at about the beginning of the seventh heat the coast guard boat began acting erratic. Despite cries of warning from spectators on the riverbank, the cutter sliced through Bray II's "No Balls" entry, then chopped off a corner of the "Andrea Ionic," entered by RPI architects. Luckily no students were hurt at this point, since they were all able to abandon their crafts in time. The cutter then proceeded to sink several other entries, and was only stopped when it rammed a particularly heavy entry, the welded metal "Cat's Meow". As



described by one crew member of the "Meow", Iam Bentup: "We were paddling along when suddenly the coast guard boat headed right for us. Before we could move, the cutter hit us, throwing us off our boat. When I surfaced I looked around and saw the cutter--a large hole in the prow, heading for Green Island."

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TA orientation to improve Greek

Confused? Tired of hearing a foreign TA mutter about "Whatfiv" and "theeta"? 'Tute has come to your rescue, with an extremely novel solution (i.e. the type of solution found only in a bad humor novel). Since most of the teaching assistants have considerable trouble with English, Greek has been declared the official teaching language for both the schools of Science and Engineering.

Although the Management, Architecture, and H and SS departments will retain English, Greek seemed the obvious choice for the technical subjects. Several logical reasons were behind this. (No, the evident pun of

"It's all Greek to me" will absolutely positively not be inserted here.) First and foremost, the need for a universal teaching language is painfully apparent at RPI, as opposed to the current mixture of German, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and so on. Secondly, almost all the variables (pardon me, variables,) are Greek. Finally, the campus Greeks are numerous, and have quite a start on learning the language.

At this point, several things should be noted. No classes will assist the student in adapting to the change. The administration feels that it is unnecessary. After all, we've

(continued on page 4, column 2 low)

POLE Pion:

F-tests

In commemoration, or in memoriam, if you prefer, of this first week of F-tests, following is a unique sampler of the Physics, Chemistry, and Calculus tests. In case you're curious most of the problems are really workable. The answers will be in the next issue.

Potentially useless formulae:

$$s = vt + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$PV = nRT$$

$$3 \text{ tsp.} = 1 \text{ tbsp.}$$

$$\rho = m/V$$

$$p = mv$$

$$F = ma$$

$$x + y = y + x$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{3M/2k}$$

$$Z = 1 + BP$$

$$\lambda = 3V/4\pi D^2 N$$

Test #1 Chemicaluphystry Time: 50min.

Do all questions as they are of equal weight. Answers without supporting work will be graded as correct or incorrect by whim. Partial credit is given if the professors so decree.

$$\text{Rankine} = {}^{\circ}\text{Fahrenheit} + 459.67$$

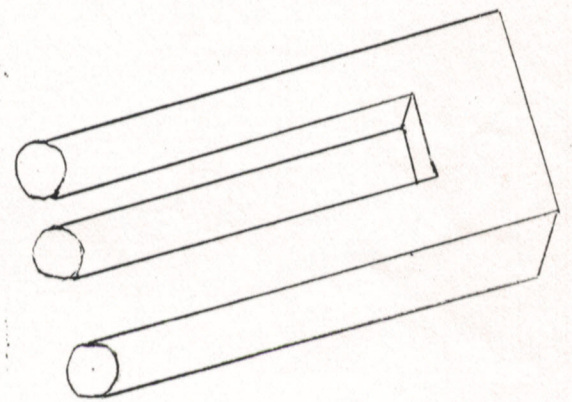
$$1 \text{ furlong/fortnight} = 1.7692E-3 \text{ m/s}$$

$$R = 10.73 \text{ cu.ft.psia/lb mole R}$$

- 1) Curly, Larry and Mole are joking around on the top of a building. Mole and Larry push Curly off with $v(0) = 0$ ($g = 32 \text{ ft/s}^2$) and he hits after 8.8s.
 - a) What is the address of the building?
 - b) Will Curly ever recover (neglect air resistance)?
 - c) What does Curly yell as he goes off?

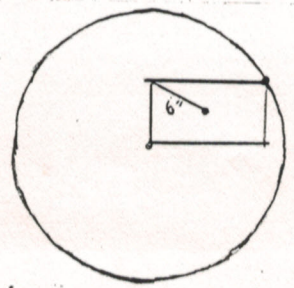
- 2) If a knurd's supply of 0.7mm pencil leads (50 leads @ .7mm each) are stolen and converted to 100 proof vodka (50% ethanol, C_2H_5OH), how many screwdrivers can be made assuming 28g vodka per drink? Assume orange juice and other reactants are supplied.

- 3) If RPI can get \$60,000 worth of endowments for every 50 students it screws, plus \$3000 per 3 students over 50, but loses 8 students (at \$8000 each) for every 6 students above 50 it screws (the statistics are compiled weekly); how many students should it screw in a week to maximize its income?



- 4) a) Design the Tute Screw, neglecting friction. Draw the figure below.
 - b) Draw a free body diagram for the figure at right. Include frictional forces.
 - c) What is the area of the circle shown below?

SHOW ALL WORK IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW.



the pole

EDITORIAL SECTION

the polemic

Vol. II, No. III

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To express your opinion, to send a letter to the editors, or to offer an article for publication, mail your correspondence through our computer mail file or by intercampus mail to: Polemic
202 Wiltsie House.

Caution

Use with adequate ventilation

Do not ingest or inhale

Do not smoke while using

Join Poly Sports!

We at the Poly need business staff, and advertising staff.

Join Poly Feature

It has come to the attention of the Polemic that the Polytechnic, the other regular campus publication is having some problems acquiring staffers. As shown by the above "headline," the Poly has been lately full of such entreaties to "Join Poly" this or that. We at the Polemic realize that at the beginning of the year good staffers can be hard to find, and we realize that the great lowered quality of the Poly from last year is mostly due to lack of experience by the Poly people. We encourage everyone on campus to give the Poly the benefit of the doubt, and the Polemic offers to lend the Poly any assistance we can render.

Brief

This editorial is, according to its title, a brief yet heart-rending tale. It is one of lack of communication between a GM and the people who barely elected him, as well as an incommunicative administration. According to our RPI constitution, the administration is connected to the GM, the GM's connected to the students, etc. Just look at the hockey line disaster, the declaration of the closed Senate meeting, and the like.

Truth is not only stranger than fiction--in some cases it's funnier, especially when the GM is the head clown.

TRY TROY DAY WORK YOUR WAY TO THE BOTTOM

Come on down to downtown

Troy and see why you won't come back again.

sports



Football players need grass!

It was announced Saturday, after the football team's loss to Canisius, that our team's earlier successful performances were due largely to artificial stimuli. It seems that before each kickoff, a private pre-game marijuana smoke-off has been held in the Engineer locker room.

However, the fraternity which was supplying the marijuana to the team has been running dry of late. "We're in a desperate position," coach Rollie Yerone is quoted as saying. "This week's loss is just the beginning. If we don't get some more soon, we'll have to start smoking the '86 field." The Polemic urges you to support your team and send any excess marijuana to: RPI Engineers, c/o Polemic, 202 Wiltsie House, RPI. Next week: Hockey Players Need Reds.

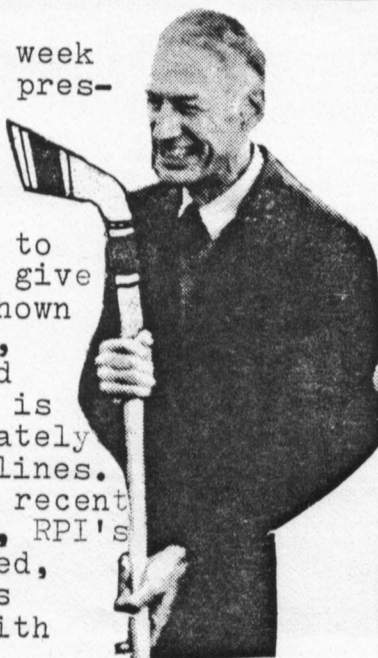
Coast Guard..

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The Green Island police attempted to intercept the cutter, but were foiled when the entire architecture department attacked the Coast Guard boat, apparently in retaliation for ruining "their" race. Several students were slightly injured before the police were able to extricate the pilot of the cutter from the mob. When later asked why he did it, the pilot claimed he had wanted to sink the navy boats, but since they sunk by themselves he had no choice but to go after the other boats. The police are confident they can get a conviction; said one officer, "This guy's really up a creek now!"

Athlete of the Week

It was revealed this week that George Low, the president of RPI, has joined the hockey team. Low was quoted as saying, "I didn't have anything better to do, so I figured I'd give it a shot." Low is shown here during practice, learning the do's and don'ts of hockey; he is reported to be moderately confused about blue lines. When asked about the recent addition to the team, RPI's hockey coach responded, "After all, who knows more about pucking with the students?"



.. Greek

(continued from page 1)

stumbled along with TA's who are not proficient in speaking English (never mind even close to capable of teaching) for so long, without any aids for adjustment.

However, the TA's will receive tests for fluency in Greek quite similar to those now given for English, after a two-week orientation to improve their Greek. The orientation course, "Confusing Conversational Greek I" will hopefully at least teach the proper pronunciation of the alphabet. (Almost the end of the article, and still no blatant, overused "It's all Greek to me, anyway" pun.)

Additionally, as of the date of the change, January 1, 1982, the Polemic will observe the change by continuing to publish in English.

Good Luck, Bonne Chance, Buena Suerte, and haben Sie Glück with the change.